

all know, became engulfed and contained by what came to be known, in the words of Sir Winston Churchill, as the Iron Curtain, with Poland falling behind the walls of that Iron Curtain, where religion was suppressed, faith was not to be practiced openly, and where he could not attend seminary openly. He would have to do it in an underground fashion.

The Pope's preparation for his priesthood and his papacy was forged in the difficult times that he faced not only personally but also in his life as a citizen of Poland. It then fell upon him to be Pope at a time when the world was undergoing change, and at a time when the people of his beloved Poland were energized as no other in history by his papacy and his theme of "be not afraid." His trip back to Poland in the early years of his papacy was punctuated by his remarkable reception by the people of Poland—people thirsty for freedom, thirsty for an opportunity to end the yoke of tyranny and communism. So the papal visit was a transcending moment in the history of Poland. As we now know, it was a transcending moment in the history of our world because it did signal the beginning of the end of Communist rule in Eastern Europe.

We know Pope John Paul worked closely with several U.S. Presidents but none more closely than President Ronald Reagan, in those crucial years when the Cold War came to a head, and when we saw the beginning of the fraying of what was a failed system, a system that had only been maintained through terror and fear. His theme of "be not afraid" began to be heard and responded to, and the people of Poland began that surge toward freedom, which was inevitable in all of Eastern Europe. So the Pope's contribution there was crucial, critical, and was something that I think we all saw as a tremendous contribution.

Of course, the Pope also visited the United States on many occasions. I believe I have heard over the last several days it was the second most visited country after his beloved Poland. It was with great significance that we received him here, and it made a tremendous difference in the life of our own country. More recently, he visited Cuba 8 years ago. Cuba is an imprisoned land where there had never been a papal visit. Also, it is a country ruled under the same tyrannical communism he saw in his native Poland during his youth and he battled all during his adult life being suppressed in his ability to worship freely.

Cuba happens to be the place where I was born, where I began my life, and where the principles of the Catholic faith were taught to me early in life by my family and my church. It was in that same land that I came to understand the meaning of oppression, tyranny, and the lack of religious freedom the Pope had experienced in his youth. He and I, in different parts of the world, in a sense shared a common ex-

perience and understanding of the limitations of freedom that are sometimes placed upon people by governments that do not respect what we find so basic and so rightful, which is the right of free speech and the right of practicing one's religion freely. The Pope's trip to Cuba was a monumental thing because it helped the people to begin again to practice their faith in a more open way. His theme of "be not afraid" was heard by Cuba, and thousands of Cubans were for the first time expressing their faith in an open way, in a way they had not been permitted to do before, but which now they dare to do.

The Pope's visit did not have the same galvanizing political effect it had in Poland, where it also led to political change, but it did have a strong pastoral theme, a message that the people of Cuba welcomed with open arms. It also inspired the archbishop in Santiago, Cuba, the second largest city in Cuba, to speak forcefully about oppression in Cuba, the lack of religious freedom, and continuation of oppression—the kind of religious oppression I felt in my life that led me to seek freedom in the United States, with the very help of the same church the Pope came to lead, the Catholic Church. His fight against atheists and communism over the years also led him to conduct a program called Operation Peter Pan, which took 14,000 young people from Cuba to freedom in the United States. I was lucky enough to be among them, so my life began under the care of the Catholic church.

I understand fully the religious oppression the people of Cuba have suffered, which continues to this day but which the Pope made a little better. He gave them a window, an opening, a moment, for the first time in over 35 years. Christmas was celebrated in anticipation of the papal visit. Unfortunately, Cuba now has fallen back into a more repressive practice, and freedom of religion is curtailed even more today.

As we look at the Pope's life, at this moment in history, as we reflect on this remarkable man, his remarkable life, and the contributions he made, we also must continue to understand there is work still to be done. There are people in the world who still are hungry and suffer, and there are those who still lack the religious freedoms to openly practice their faith, much as the Pope in his youth was curtailed. People today in Cuba and other places around the world still yearn for that opportunity to freely worship and to do what we do. As we began our proceedings this morning, the Chaplain of the Senate offered a word of prayer.

I conclude by simply saying that we have been touched in our lives by this remarkable man, this life which has shaped the world in which we live. It is a life well lived. As he has come to the end of his journey, I hope those of us who share in his faith and in his ideals of the respect of every human life and every human being will continue to

carry on the wonderful legacy he left for us.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana is recognized.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, today I join in mourning the loss of Pope John Paul II. In my lifetime, he was the first Pope I can remember who could actually be put in the category of being an evangelist.

No other Pope ever traveled as much as this Pope did, and no man ever took the Word to the different corners of the world like this man did, and that is why he is so revered around the world.

(The remarks of Mr. BURNS pertaining to the introduction of S. 696 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 600

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that following morning business today the Senate begin consideration of S. 600, the State Department authorization bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, I rise this morning to talk about three areas of accountability as we begin discussing a range of things in the Senate this week. The issue of accountability rises on the question of the report offered to the American people and to the Congress by Judge Laurence Silberman and former Senator Chuck Robb. It deals with the question of intelligence preceding the Iraq war.

The 600-page report given us was largely a useless retelling of what we know already. I do not want to completely diminish the effort, and there are some things in that report that are interesting, but the fact is, we already know that the intelligence with respect to Iraq was dead wrong. The major question is, How was the intelligence used and for what purpose was it used?